

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

August 10, 2015

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chairman
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

Not Present: Mr. Robert Ericson

Warrants: Warrant Signed

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Ron Tinkham came before the Board to report that there has been no activity from the Water District for last two weeks on Sunrise Street. Kacy Westwood came before the Board to ask if they would be opposed to the construction of a free standing bulletin board in Berkshire Village as residents there do not use the post office and often do not see postings for Town events. Ms. Westwood presented the Board with a proposed drawing of the structure and stated that the 250th Committee voted unanimously to donate \$250 towards the purchase of the bulletin board which will be used to post events to better serve the eastern side of the community. Ms. Westwood asked the Board for its support and if they could possibly help fund the purchase. She stated that the Town Clerk and the Web Weaver would have keys to post items. Mr. Goerlach asked who would maintain the structure and stated that the Town did not have funds to give towards the purchase. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Board will take it under advisement and maybe see if McCann Technical School could possible construct the board and stated that Ms. Westwood should try to organize fund raisers to pay for it.[#1] Bob Barton from Kessler Road came before the Board relative to the cost sharing for the high school renovation. Mr. Barton stated that he learned that School Committee is reviewing capital cost sharing language and would like Board to be actively involved in reviewing the formula as the Town needs to make sure that funding is allocated evenly between the two towns. He asked if it would be possible to have a joint meeting in early September with the Select Boards from each town, the School Committee and possibly the Finance Committee. Mr. Barton stated that with a \$70 million project, small percentages are a substantial cost to the Town. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff to send a letter to the School Committee regarding a joint meeting. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will follow up with the entities to try to schedule a meeting.

Permit(s) / Contract(s) / Use of Town Property or Notification to Town of Community Event / Appointment(s)

Petition for Conduit Location – Verizon – Brodie Mountain Road

Paul Davis came before the Board representing Verizon with a Petition for Conduit Location to be installed on Brodie Mountain Road. Both the DPW Director and the Tree Warden stated that they have no objection to this petition. Motion 15-123. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Petition for Conduit Location filed by Verizon New England, Inc. with the condition that the area be returned to its original condition, seconded by John Goerlach. Unanimously voted. [#2]

Berkshire Village Cooperative USDA Waterline Project Proposal

Lori DiLego from Berkshire Village came before the Board on behalf of the Berkshire Water Cooperative. Ms. DiLego stated that the Cooperative is interested in becoming part of the Lanesborough Water District. She stated that they will be looking for grants and would like Mr. Sieloff to apply for them on their behalf to help pay to extend the line to them. Mr. Sieloff stated that this is approximately a \$1 to \$2 million dollar project and grants may be available to cover about 30% of the cost. Mr. Sieloff told the Board that the USDA stated that the Town would be the best applicant for the grants and that there are low interest rate loans over 40 years which are also available. Mr. Sieloff stated that the first step would be to hire an engineer who can help with the process. Mr. Sieloff stated that this would be a major benefit to the village and asked the Board if they were agreeable for the Town to move forward with this phase of the project. Mr. Sieloff asked Ms. DiLego to bring back a signed petition from the residents at one of the next two meetings. Mr. Sayers stated that he would like to see at least $\frac{3}{4}$ interest in Berkshire Village residents before the Town pursues this endeavor. Mr. Goerlach asked how many people were interested. Ms. DiLego stated that 12 of 34 households are on board to join the Water District depending on the cost.

Narragansett Avenue neighborhood issues relating to chickens and other fowl

Mr. Goerlach stated that he asked the residents not to come to this meeting and that they are working on a temporary solution to the issue. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Town Bylaw is very vague. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will check into the Right to Farm Bylaw.

Materials Bids for FY 2016

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that sealed bids were opened today relative to the Materials Bid for FY2016 and presented the Board with a Memorandum from DPW Director William Decelles with the companies that had the lowest bids. Motion 15-124. Motion made by John Goerlach to award the materials bids as listed on the Memorandum from DPW Director Decelles dated August 10, 2015, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. John Goerlach voted out of the rule of necessity. [#3]

Equipment Rentals Bids for FY 2016

Mr. Sieloff stated that DPW Director Decelles will bring the winning bids to the next meeting.

Tree Services Contract for FY 2016

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that sealed bids were opened today relative to the tree work for FY2016. Motion 15-125. Motion made by Henry Sayers to award the FY2016 tree service contract to Jeff's Tree Service, seconded by John Goerlach. Unanimously voted. John Goerlach voted out of the rule of necessity.

New Street Light Removal Proposal – Energy Committee

Continued to next meeting. [#4]

USPS Name Change - Lanesborough

Mr. Sieloff stated that the Postmaster was supportive of the name change. The matter will put on the Agenda in two months to get a report from the Postmaster. Mr. Goerlach asked that this item be added to the open projects list.

Mount Greylock School Agreement – Capital Project Assessment Formula

Mr. Sieloff stated that the Town can no longer look at this as a theoretical decision since the proposed new school project has been sent to Boston to be reviewed and what Mr. Barton suggested earlier in the meeting is a good idea to jointly meet with other boards and committees to discuss the best solution. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will follow up with this.

Proposed Increase in Plumbing & Gas Fees – Commercial Properties

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that the current fee for the inspection of wiring for commercial buildings was \$100 but the fee for the inspection of plumbing and gas for commercial buildings was only \$55 and asked the Board if they wished to increase the fee to make it consistent. The Board asked to have a new fee schedule presented at the next meeting for them to vote on. [#5]

Proposed Processing Fee \$50 – Liquor Licenses

Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they wished to implement a processing fee for new liquor license applications or for modifications to existing licenses. Motion 15-126. Motion made by John Goerlach to develop a processing fee for new liquor license applications or modifications to existing licenses, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted.

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting.

None.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Goerlach stated that he would like to extend the waterline on Orebed Road further to potentially allow other homes to connect to the system and also because we have rented an excavator through the end of the month. The

cost for the extension of the pipe would be minimal (\$3,000 to \$4,000 for pipe). Mr. Sayers asked how the Town was doing on the budget for this project. Mr. Sieloff said the project so far is under budget. Mr. Goerlach stated that the DPW Director informed him that even with the proposed extension the cost would still be under the original amount that was budgeted. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff if the Town was going to pay to repave the road with the money that was borrowed for the project instead of using Chapter 90 money. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will check with the DPW Director and report back to the Board. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would like to have Mr. Ericson mark the poles to make it easier to see which lights will be turned off. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would talk to Mr. Ericson. Mr. Goerlach stated that the concrete on the Town Hall building is cracking and falling off. Mr. Goerlach would like to get proposals to get money generated to repair it and would also like to see about getting the front steps either resurfaced or replaced. Mr. Sieloff stated there is some money in the budget to make repairs to the building and he will talk to the DPW Director to get quotes.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a letter from the Towns of Adams and Cheshire relative to potential Hoosac Valley High School collaboration. Mr. Sieloff stated that there is a meeting scheduled for August 27th at Hoosac Valley High School and asked the Board if they wished to attend to see what is being proposed. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would gladly go to the meeting. Mr. Goerlach asked what Cheshire has for an elementary school. Mr. Sieloff stated that both Cheshire and Adams have their own. Mr. Goerlach asked if Cheshire could combine with the Town's elementary school.[#6]

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by John Goerlach. Unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] Outdoor Bulletin Board Proposal for Berkshire Village
- [#2] Petition for Conduit Location – Verizon – Brodie Mountain Road
- [#3] DPW Director Memorandum – Materials Bid FY2016
- [#4] Proposed Street Light Removal List
- [#5] Proposed Gas & Plumbing Fee Increase – Commercial Properties
- [#6] School District Options Committee Letter from Adams and Cheshire